# SUMMARY

## S.1 Introduction

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) predecessor agency, established the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina, in the early 1950s. The primary mission of SRS was to produce nuclear materials for national defense. With the end of the Cold War and the reduction in the size of the United States' stockpile of nuclear weapons, the SRS mission has changed. While national defense is still an important facet of the mission, SRS no longer produces nuclear materials and the mission is focused on material stabilization, environmental restoration, waste management, and decontamination and decommissioning of facilities that are no longer needed.

L-1-10 L-5-2 L-7-10 As a result of its nuclear materials production mission, SRS generated large quantities of high-level radioactive waste (HLW). The HLW resulted from dissolving spent reactor fuel and nuclear targets to recover the valuable radioactive isotopes. DOE had stored the HLW in 51 large underground storage tanks located in the F- and H-Area Tank Farms at SRS. DOE has emptied and closed two of those tanks. DOE is treating the HLW, using a process called vitrification. The highly radioactive portion of the waste is mixed with a glass like material and stored in stainless steel canisters at SRS, pending shipment to a geologic repository for disposal. This process is currently underway at SRS in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF).

The HLW tanks at SRS are of four different types, which provide varying degrees of protection to the environment due to different degrees of containment. The tanks are operated under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA) and DOE Orders issued under the AEA. The tanks are permitted by the South
TC Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) under South Carolina wastewater regulations, which require permitted facilities to be closed after they are removed from service. DOE has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and SCDHEC to close the HLW tanks after they have been removed from service. Closure of the HLW tanks would EC
comply with DOE's responsibilities under the AEA and the South Carolina closure requirements and be carried out under a schedule agreed to by DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC.

There are several ways to close the HLW tanks. DOE has prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure that the public and EC
DOE's decision makers have a thorough understanding of the potential environmental impacts of alternative means of closing the tanks. This Summary: TC

- describes the HLW tanks and the closure process,
- describes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that DOE is using to aid in decision making,
- summarizes the alternatives for closing the HLW tanks and identifies DOE's preferred alternative, and EC
- identifies the major conclusions regarding environmental impacts, areas of controversy, and issues that remain to be resolved as DOE proceeds with the HLW tank closure process.

## S.2 High-Level Waste Storage and Tank Closure

### S.2.1 HIGH-LEVEL WASTE

DOE Manual 435.1-1, which provides direction for implementing DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management*, defines HLW as "highly radioactive waste material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations; and other highly radioactive material that is determined, consistent with existing law, to require permanent isolation."

### S.2.2 HIGH-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AT THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

TC Currently, about 37 million gallons of HLW are stored in 49 underground tanks in two tank farms, the F-Area Tank Farm and the H-Area Tank Farm. Two additional tanks have been closed. The tank farms are in the central part of EC the SRS. Figure S-1 shows the locations of F and H Areas and the tank farms.

The HLW in the tanks is in three forms: sludge, salt, and liquid. The sludge is solid material that has precipitated and settled to the bottom of the tank. The salt is comprised of salt compounds[1] that have crystallized as a result of concentrating the liquid by evaporation. The liquid is a highly concentrated solution of salt compounds in water. Although some tanks contain all three forms, many tanks are considered primarily sludge tanks, while others are considered salt tanks, containing both salt and liquid. The sludge portion of the HLW is being transferred to the DWPF for vitrification in borosilicate TC glass. The glass is poured into stainless steel canisters at the DWPF and the filled and sealed canisters are stored nearby, pending shipment to a geologic repository. About 1,300 canisters have been filled and stored.

HLW management systems at SRS are designed to place the high-radioactivity fraction of the HLW in a form (borosilicate glass) that can be disposed of in a geologic repository, and to dispose of the low-radioactivity fraction that TC meets the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing requirements (see Section S.2.4) in vaults at the SRS. The proposed construction, operation and monitoring, and closure of a geologic repository at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada is the L-4-13 subject of a separate EIS. As part of that process, DOE issued a Draft EIS for a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, in August 1999 (64 Federal Register [FR] 156), and a Supplement to the Draft EIS in May 2001 (66 FR 22540). The Final EIS was approved and DOE announced the electronic and reading room availability in February 2002 (67 FR 9048). The President has recommended to the Congress that the Yucca Mountain Site is suitable as a geologic repository. If the Yucca L-4-13 Mountain site is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for development as a geologic repository, current schedules indicate that the repository could begin receiving waste as early as 2010. DOE has not yet developed schedules for sending specific wastes, such as the glass-filled canisters, to the repository.

The salt and liquid portions of the HLW would be separated into high-radioactivity and low-radioactivity fractions as part of treatment. As TC described in the 1994 *Defense Waste Processing Facility Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0082-S), an In-Tank EC Precipitation process would separate the salt and liquid portions of the HLW into high- and low-radioactivity fractions. The high-radioactivity fraction would be transferred to the DWPF for vitrification along with the sludge portion. The low-radioactivity fraction that meets the Waste Incidental to Reprocessing requirements (see TC Section S.2.4) would be transferred to the Saltstone Manufacturing and Disposal Facility in Z Area and mixed with grout to make a concrete-like material to be disposed of in vaults at SRS.

Since issuance of that Supplemental EIS, DOE has concluded that the In-Tank Precipitation process, as currently configured, cannot achieve production goals and meet safety requirements for processing the salt portion of HLW. Therefore, in February 1999, DOE issued a Notice of Intent (64 FR 8558; February 22, 1999) to prepare a second Supplemental EIS (SEIS), *High-Level Waste Salt Processing Alternatives at the Savannah River Site* L-4-14 (DOE/EIS-0082-S2). This SEIS analyzed the impacts of constructing and operating facilities for four alternative processing technologies. The Final Salt Processing Alternatives SEIS was

[1] A salt is a chemical compound formed when one or more hydrogen ions of an acid are replaced by metallic ions. Common salt, sodium chloride, is a well-known salt.

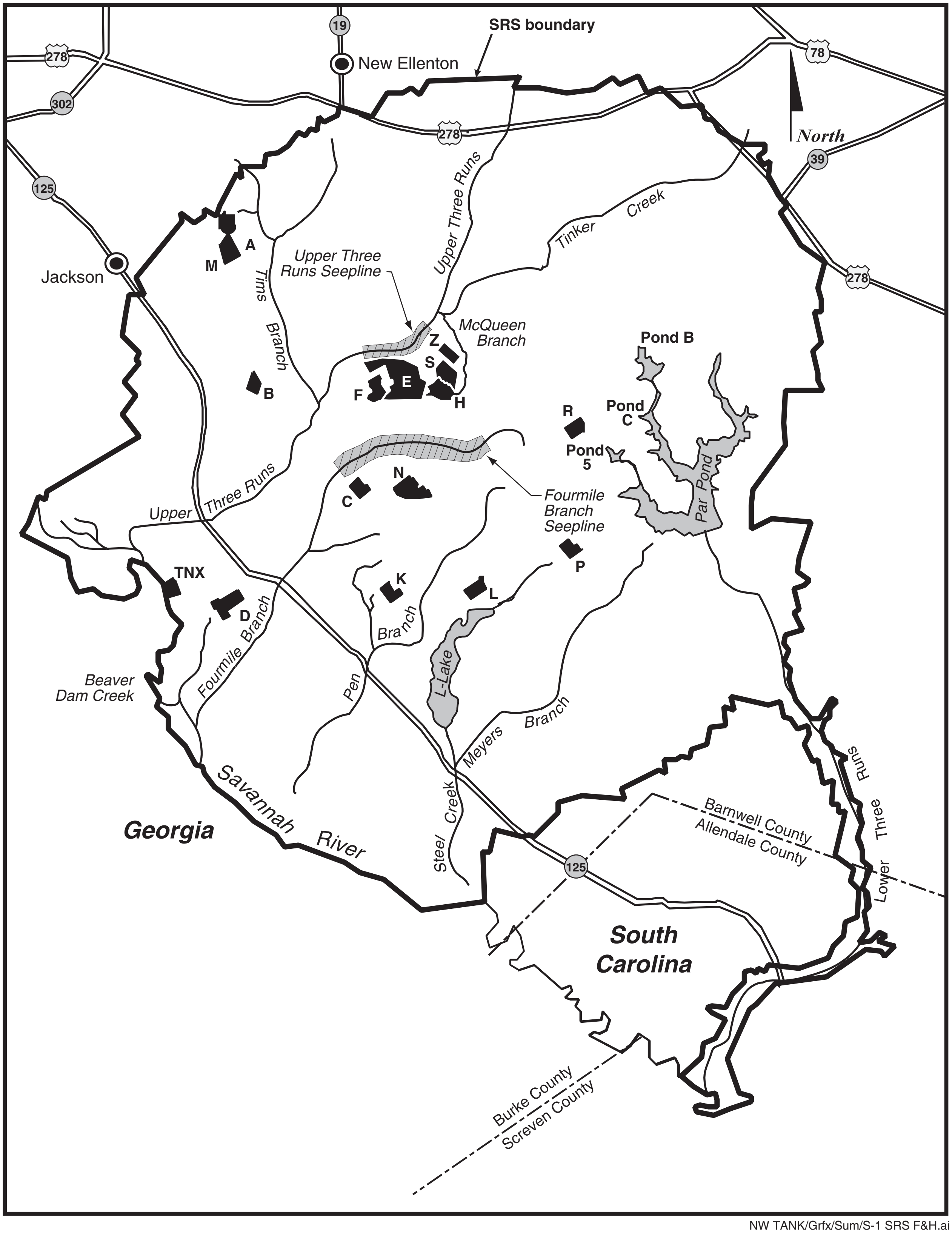


**Figure S-1.** Savannah River Site map. F and H Areas are in the upper center.

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issued in July 2001 (66 FR 37957; July 20, 2001) and the Record of Decision in October 2001 (66 FR 52752; October 17, 2001). DOE selected the Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Alternative for separation of radioactive cesium from SRS salt wastes. Selecting a salt processing technology was necessary in order to empty the tanks and allow tank closure to proceed. Figure S-2 shows the current configuration of the SRS HLW management system.

### S.2.3 HIGH-LEVEL WASTE TANKS AND TANK FARMS

The F-Area Tank Farm is a 22-acre site that contains 20 active waste tanks, 2 closed waste tanks (Tanks 17 and 20), evaporator systems, transfer pipelines, diversion boxes, and pump pits. Figure S-3 shows the general layout of the F-Area Tank Farm. The H-Area Tank Farm is a 45-acre site with 29 active waste tanks, evaporator systems (including the new Replacement High-Level Waste Evaporator), the Extended Sludge Processing Facility, transfer pipelines, diversion boxes, and pump pits. Figure S-4 shows the general layout of the H-Area Tank Farm.

The HLW tanks are of four different designs, all constructed of carbon-steel inside reinforced concrete containment vaults. The major design features of each tank design are shown in Figure S-5.

There are 12 Type I tanks that were built in 1952 and 1953. These tanks have partial height secondary containment and active cooling. The tank tops are below grade, and the bottoms of Tanks 1 through 8 are above the seasonal high water table. The bottoms of Tanks 9 through 12 in H Area are in the water table. Tanks 1, 5, 6, and 9 through 12 are known to have leak sites where waste has leaked from the primary to the secondary containment. The leaked waste is kept dry by air circulation and there is no evidence that the waste has leaked from the secondary containment. The level of waste in these tanks has been lowered to below the leak sites. Four Type II tanks, Tanks 13 through 16, were built in 1956. These tanks have partial-height secondary containment and active cooling. These tanks are above the seasonal water table. All four tanks have known leak sites where waste has leaked from the primary to the secondary containment. In Tank 16, tens of gallons of waste overflowed the annulus pan (secondary containment) and migrated into the surrounding soil in 1962. Waste removal from the Tank 16 primary vessel was completed in 1980. DOE removed some waste from the annulus at that time, but some dry waste still remains in the annulus.

The SRS Citizen's Advisory Board recommendation (January 23, 2001) regarding annulus cleaning stated the Board's concern that SRS appears to be placing a low priority on annulus cleaning. DOE responded to this recommendation (February 8, 2001) stating, "the Savannah River Operations Office considers the issue of removal of waste from the tank annulus to be important to the long-term success of the HLW Tank Closure Program." The response further states, "However, the development of methods for removal of waste from the tank annulus as part of the longer term effort to close Tank 14 reflects a balanced and responsive approach to solving this important challenge." This conclusion is valid for closure of all tanks that have annuli.

Eight Type IV tanks, Tanks 17 through 24, were built between 1958 and 1962. These tanks have single steel walls and do not have active cooling. Tanks 17 through 20 are slightly above the water table. Tanks 19 and 20 have known cracks that are believed to have been caused by groundwater corrosion of the tank walls in the past. Interior photographic inspections have indicated that small amounts of groundwater have leaked into these tanks, but there is no evidence that waste ever leaked out. The level of the waste in Tank 19, which is the next tank scheduled to be closed, is below these cracks. Tanks 17 and 20 have been closed in the manner described in the Fill with Grout Option of the Stabilize Tanks Alternative evaluated in this EIS. Tanks 21 through 24 are above the groundwater table, but are in a perched water table, caused by the original construction of the tank area.

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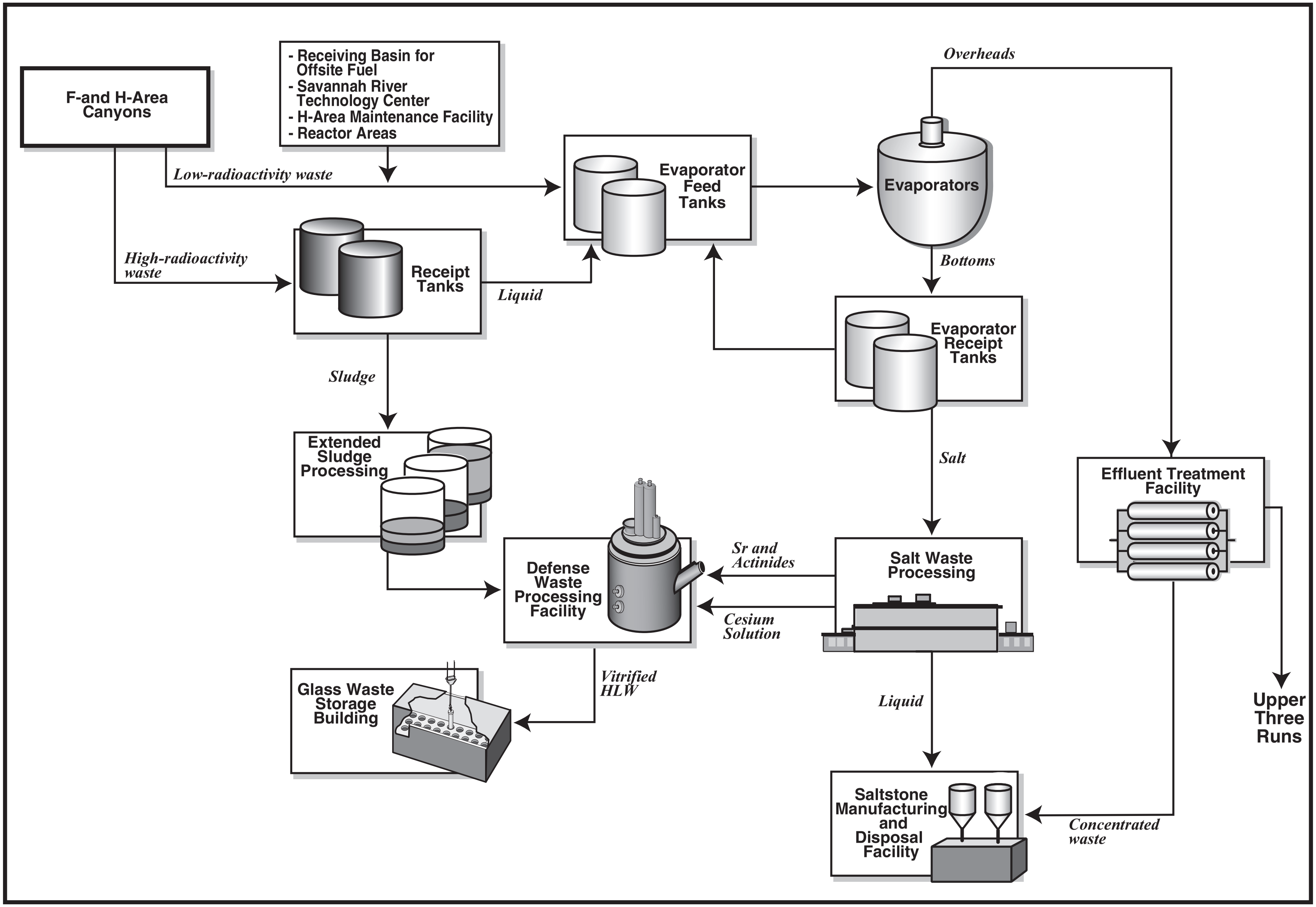


**Figure S-2.** Process flows for Savannah River Site high-level waste management system.

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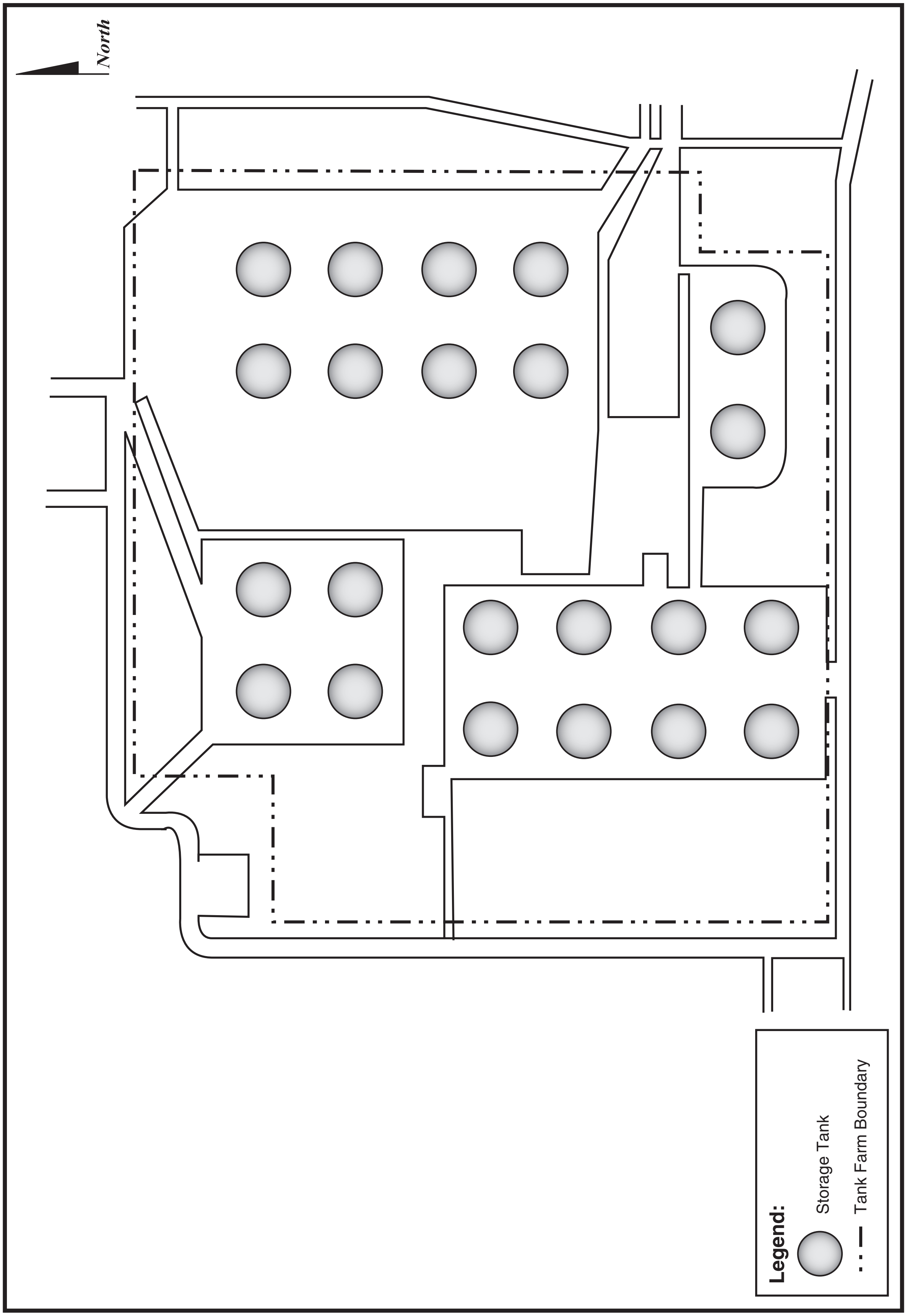


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**Figure S-3.** General layout of F-Area Tank Farm.

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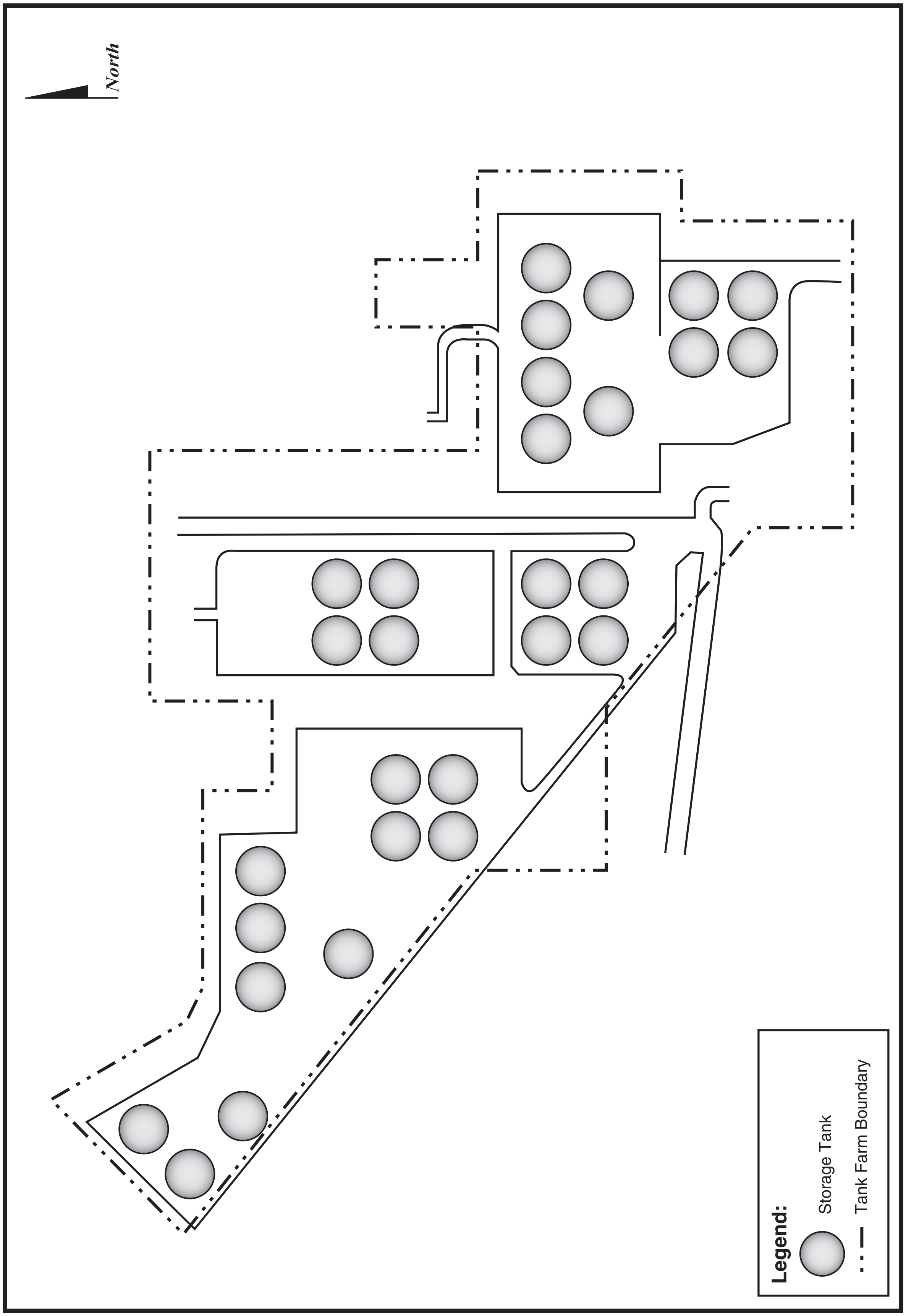


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**Figure S-4.** General layout of H-Area Tank Farm.

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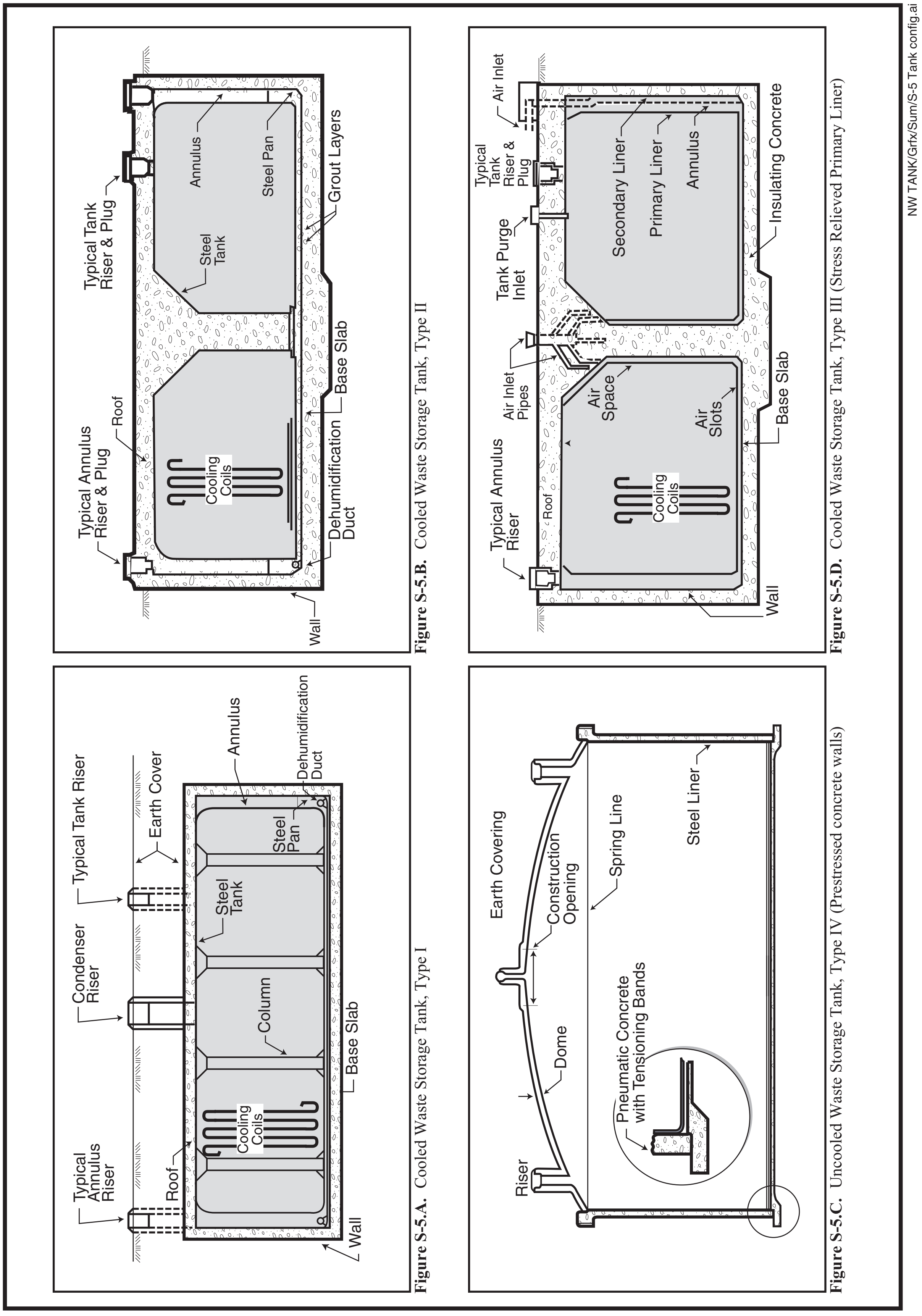


**Figure S-5.A.** Cooled Waste Storage Tank, Type I

**Figure S-5.B.** Cooled Waste Storage Tank, Type II

**Figure S-5.C.** Uncooled Waste Storage Tank, Type IV (Prestressed concrete walls)

**Figure S-5.D.** Cooled Waste Storage Tank, Type III (Stress Relieved Primary Liner)

**Figure S-5.** Tank configurations.

The newest design, Type III tanks, have a full-height secondary tank and active cooling. During construction, the Type III tanks were stress relieved (heat treated to remove residual L-7-13 stresses in the metal introduced during the manufacturing process) to eliminate the high stresses that promote stress corrosion cracking. EC These 27 tanks were placed in service between 1969 and 1986. All Type III tanks are above the L-2-6 water table. No leaks have been observed in the Type III tanks.

### S.2.4 HIGH-LEVEL WASTE TANK CLOSURE

Tank closure would begin when bulk waste has been removed from a HLW tank system (a tank and its associated piping and equipment) for treatment and disposal.

L-7-14 DOE has analyzed the environmental impacts of bulk waste removal from the HLW tanks in the *Waste Management Operations, Savannah River Plant EIS* (ERDA-1537) and the *Long-term Management for Defense High-Level Radioactive Wastes (Research and Development Program for Immobilization) Savannah River Plant EIS* (DOE/EIS-0023). In addition, the *SRS Waste Management EIS* (DOE/EIS-0217) discusses HLW management activities as part of the No Action Alternative (i.e., continuing the present course of action), and the *Defense Waste Processing Facility Savannah River Plant EIS* EC (DOE/EIS-0082), the *Defense Waste Processing Facility Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0082-S), and the *Savannah River Site Salt Processing Alternatives Supplemental Environmental* EC *Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0082-S2) discuss management of HLW after it is removed from the tanks.

In accordance with the SRS Federal Facility Agreement between DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC, DOE intends to remove the tanks from service as their storage missions are completed. DOE is obligated to close 24 tanks that do not meet the EPA's secondary containment standards under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) by 2022. The 24 Type I, II, and IV tanks have been or will be removed from service before the 27 Type III tanks. Type III tanks will remain in service until there is no further need for them, which DOE currently anticipates would occur before the year 2030.

The HLW tank systems at SRS are operated in accordance with a permit issued by SCDHEC under the authority of the South Carolina Pollution Control Act as industrial wastewater treatment facilities. DOE is required to close the tank systems in accordance with AEA requirements (i.e., DOE Orders) and South Carolina Regulation R.61-82, "Proper Closeout of Wastewater Treatment Facilities." This regulation requires that closures be carried out according to site-specific guidelines established by SCDHEC to prevent health hazards and to promote safety in and around the tank systems. DOE has adopted a general strategy for HLW tank system closure, set forth in DOE's 1996 *Industrial Wastewater Closure Plan for the F- and H-Area High-Level Waste Tank Systems*, known as the General Closure Plan. The General Closure Plan has been approved by SCDHEC.

The General Closure Plan identifies the resources (e.g., groundwater, air) potentially affected by contaminants remaining in the tanks after waste removal and closure, describes how the tank systems and residual wastes would be stabilized, and identifies Federal and State regulations and guidance that apply to the closures. The Plan describes the use of fate and transport models to calculate potential environmental exposure concentrations or radiological dose rates from the residual waste left in the tank systems. The General Closure Plan describes the method DOE will use to make sure the impacts of closure of individual tank systems do not exceed the environmental standards that apply to the entire F- and H-Area Tank Farms. Chapter 7 of this EIS gives more detail on the development of the General Closure Plan and the environmental standards that apply to closure of the HLW tanks.

Several issues related to the HLW tank closure program will be resolved after DOE selects an overall tank closure approach based on this EIS. L-4-12 These issues will be addressed during the tank-

by-tank implementation of the closure decision, and include: (1) performance objectives for each tank that allow the cumulative closure to meet the overall performance standard; (2) the regulatory status of residual waste in each tank, through a determination whether it is "waste incidental to reprocessing;" (3) use of cleaning methods such as spray water washing or oxalic acid cleaning, if needed to meet a tank's performance objective; and (4) cleaning methods for tank secondary containment (annulus), if needed. These issues are discussed in greater
L-4-12 detail below. (In addition, DOE is assessing the contributions to risk from non-tank sources in the H-Area Tank Farm. Although the long-term impacts presented in this EIS consider the contributions of non-tank sources, further characterization and modeling of contributions from other sources may result in the refinement of performance objectives. An issue to be addressed after tank closure is the long-term management of the area, which DOE will consider under the RCRA/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) processes as part of its environmental restoration program).

## Performance Objective

Under the action alternatives, DOE will establish performance objectives for closure of each HLW tank. Each performance objective will correspond to an overall performance standard identified in the General Closure Plan and will ensure that the overall performance standard can be met. For example, if the performance standard for drinking water in the receiving
TC stream is 4 millirem per year, the combined contribution from contaminants from all tanks will not exceed the 4-millirem-per-year limit. DOE will evaluate closure options for specific tanks to determine whether use of a specific
EC closure option will allow DOE to meet the overall performance standard. Based on this analysis, DOE will develop a Closure Module (a tank-specific closure plan) for each HLW tank such that the performance objectives for the tank can be met. The Closure Module must be approved by SCDHEC before tank closure can begin.

## Waste Incidental to Reprocessing

An important issue associated with tank closure and a subject of controversy, is the determination of the regulatory status of residual TC
waste in the tanks. Before bulk waste removal, the content of the tanks is defined as HLW. The goal of the bulk waste removal and, if needed, subsequent cleaning of the tanks is to remove as much waste as can reasonably be removed.

**Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Determination**

The two processes for determining if waste can be considered incidental to reprocessing are "citation" and "evaluation." Waste incidental to reprocessing by "citation" includes spent nuclear fuel processing plant wastes that meet the description included in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (34 FR 8712; June 3, 1969) for promulgation of proposed Appendix D, 10 CFR Part 50, Paragraphs 6 and 7 that later came to be referred to as "waste incidental to reprocessing." These radioactive wastes are the result of processing plant operations such as, but not limited to, contaminated job wastes `such as laboratory items (i.e., clothing, tools, and equipment).

The DOE Radioactive Waste Manual (DOE M 435.1-1, Chapter II, B(2)) states:

"Determinations that any waste is incidental to reprocessing by the evaluation process shall be developed under good record-keeping practices, with an adequate quality assurance process, and shall be documented to support the determinations. Such wastes may include, but are not limited to, spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant wastes that:

(a) Will be managed as low-level waste and meet the following criteria:

1. Have been processed, or will be processed, to remove key radionuclides to the maximum extent that is technically and economically practical; and
2. Will be managed to meet safety requirements comparable to the performance objectives set out in 10 CFR Part 61; and
3. Are to be managed, pursuant to DOE's authority under the *Atomic Energy Act of 1954*, as amended, and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV of this Manual [DOE M 435.1-1], provided the waste will be incorporated in a solid physical form at a concentration that does not exceed the applicable concentration limits for Class C low-level waste as set out in 10 CFR 61.55, Waste Classification; or will meet alternative requirements for waste classification and characterization as DOE may authorize. TC

(b) Will be managed as transuranic waste and meet the following criteria:

1. Have been processed, or will be processed, to remove key radionuclides to the maximum extent that is technically and economically practical; and
2. Will be incorporated in a solid physical form and meet alternative requirements for waste classification and characteristics, as DOE may authorize; and
3. Are managed pursuant to DOE's authority under the *Atomic Energy Act of 1954*, as amended, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III of this Manual [DOE M 435.1-1], as appropriate."

In July 1999, DOE issued Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management*, and the associated *Manual* and *Implementation Guide*. DOE Manual 435.1-1 prescribes two processes, by citation or by evaluation (see text box), for determining that waste resulting from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel can be considered "waste incidental to reprocessing."

According to Order 435.1, waste resulting from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel that is determined to be incidental to reprocessing is not HLW, and shall be managed under DOE's regulatory authority in accordance with requirements for transuranic waste or low-level waste (LLW), and all other Federal or state regulations as appropriate.[2] Section 7.1.3 of this EIS discusses the waste incidental to reprocessing process in more detail. TC

**HLW Tank Cleaning**

Following bulk waste removal, DOE would clean the tanks, if necessary, to meet the performance objectives contained in the General Closure Plan and the tank-specific Closure Module. In accordance with the General Closure Plan, the need for and the extent of any tank cleaning would be determined based on the analysis presented in the tank-specific Closure Module. DOE estimates that bulk waste removal would result in removal of 97 percent of the total radioactivity in the tanks. TC

On a tank-by-tank basis, using performance and historical data, DOE would determine whether bulk waste removal, with water washing as appropriate, would meet Criterion 1 for removal of key radionuclides to the extent "technically and economically practical" (DOE Manual 435.1-1). If any criterion could not be met, cleaning methods, such as spray water washes or oxalic acid cleaning, could be employed. As part of each tank-specific closure module, DOE will evaluate the long-term human health impacts of further waste removal versus the additional economic costs. TC

Tank cleaning by spray water washing involves washing each tank, using hot water in rotary spray jets. The spray nozzles can remove waste near the edges of the tank that is not readily removed by slurry pumps. After spraying, the contents of the tank would be agitated with slurry pumps and the subsequent liquid pumped out of the tank. This process has been demonstrated on Tanks 16 (which has not been closed) and 17 (which has been closed). If modeling evaluations showed that performance objectives could not be met after an initial spray water washing, additional spray water washes would be used prior to employing other cleaning techniques. TC

If Criteria 2 and 3 could not be met using spray water washing, other cleaning techniques could be employed. These techniques could include mechanical methods, oxalic acid cleaning, or other chemical cleaning methods. If oxalic acid cleaning were chosen, hot oxalic acid would be sprayed through the spray nozzles that were used for spray water washing. Oxalic acid has been demonstrated in Tank 16 only, and shown to provide cleaning that is much more effective than spray water washing for removal of radioactivity (See Table S-1). However, oxalic acid cleaning costs far more than water washing, and there are important technical constraints on its use. Use of oxalic acid in an HLW tank would require successfully demonstrating that dissolution of HLW sludge solids by the acid would not create a potential for a nuclear criticality. TC

The potential for nuclear criticality is one significant technical constraint on the practicality of chemical cleaning (such as with oxalic acid). Concern about potential criticality would not preclude using chemical cleaning. However, a thorough, tank-specific evaluation

[2] The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a Petition in the Idaho District Court on August 15, 2001, asking the Court to review DOE Order 435.1 and claiming that the Order is "arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in responding to a separate petition from the NRDC, has concluded that DOE's commitments to (1) clean up to the maximum extent technically and economically practical, and (2) meet performance objectives consistent with those required for disposal of low-level waste, if satisfied, should serve to provide adequate protection of public health and safety (65 FR 62377; October 18, 2000).

**Table S-1.** Tank 16 waste removal process and curies removed with each sequential step.

L-7-16

| Sequential Waste Removal Step | Curies Removed | Percent of Curies Removed | Cumulative Curies Removed | Cumulative Percent Curies Removed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulk Waste Removal | $2.74\times10^6$ | 97% | $2.74\times10^6$ | 97% |
| Spray Water Washing | $2.78\times10^4$ | 0.98% | $2.77\times10^6$ | 97.98% |
| Oxalic Acid Wash & Rinse | $5.82\times10^4$ | 2% | $2.83\times10^6$ | 99.98% |

TC for criticality would need to be done before using chemical cleaning in any tank and may result in the identification of additional tank-specific controls to ensure prevention of criticality.

TC Also, extensive chemical cleaning could affect downstream waste processing activities (DWPF and salt disposition). For example, the presence of oxalates in the waste feed to DWPF that would result from oxalic acid cleaning would adversely affect the quality of the glass, and special batches of the salt disposition process could be required to control the sodium oxalate concentration.

TC **Cleaning of Secondary Containment**

Nine HLW tanks have leaked measurable amounts of waste from primary containment to secondary containment, with only one leaking to the soil surrounding the tanks. For these tanks, the waste would be removed from the secondary containment using water and/or steam. Such cleaning has been attempted at SRS on only one tank (Tank 16), and the operation was only about 70 percent completed, because salts mixed with sand (from sandblasting of tank welds) made salt removal more difficult. Cleaning of the secondary containment is not a demonstrated technology and new techniques may need to be developed. L-7-17 The amount of waste that would remain in secondary containment after bulk waste removal and cleaning is small, so the environmental risk of this waste is minimal compared to the amount of residual waste that would EC be contained inside the tanks.

## S.3 NEPA Process

NEPA provides Federal decision makers with a process to use when considering the potential environmental impacts of proposed actions and alternatives. This process also provides several ways the public can be informed about and influence the selection of an alternative.

In 1995, DOE began preparations for closure of the HLW tanks. DOE prepared the *Industrial Wastewater Closure Plan for F- and H-Area High-Level Waste Tank Systems*. At the same time, DOE prepared the *Environmental Assessment for the Closure of the High-Level Waste Tanks in F- and H-Areas at the Savannah River Site* (DOE/EA-1164). In a Finding of No Significant Impact signed on July 31, 1996, DOE concluded that closure of the HLW tanks in accordance with the General Closure Plan would not result in significant environmental impacts. Since that time DOE has closed Tanks 17 and 20.

DOE re-examined the 1996 Tank Closure Environmental Assessment and decided to prepare an EIS before any additional HLW tanks are closed at SRS. This decision was based on several factors, including a desire to more thoroughly explore the environmental impacts from closure and to open a new round of information sharing and dialogue with stakeholders. TC In the December 29, 1998, Federal Register, DOE published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on closure of the HLW tanks (63 FR 71628). EC Publication of the NOI began a 45-day public scoping period. DOE held public scoping meetings on January 14, 1999, in North Augusta, South Carolina, and on January 19, 1999, in Columbia, South Carolina. DOE considered comments received during the scoping period in preparing this EIS. TC

DOE published the *Savannah River Site, High-Level Waste Tank Closure Draft Environmental* EC